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NPS CubeSat Launcher (NPSCuL) Program Update

DeJesus, Adam "Tito"

Naval Postgraduate School 2009 CubeSat Developers Workshop California Polytechnic State University
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NPS CubeSat Launcher (NPSCuL) Program Update

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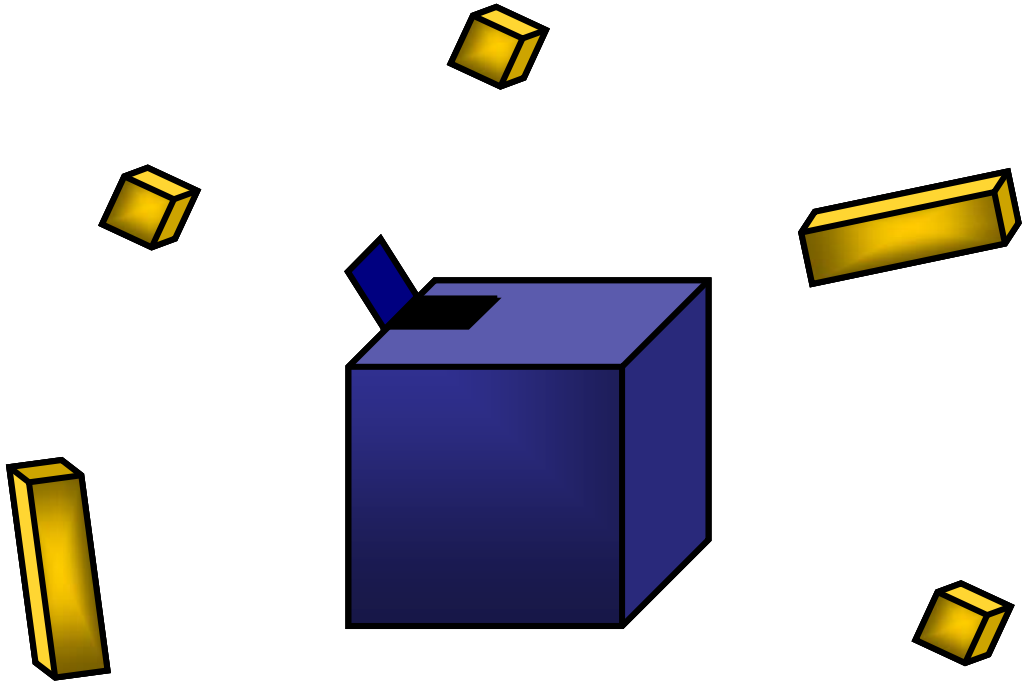
What is “coach class” on a rocket?



NPSCuL

COACH-CLASS

TO ORBIT

What is “coach class” on a rocket?

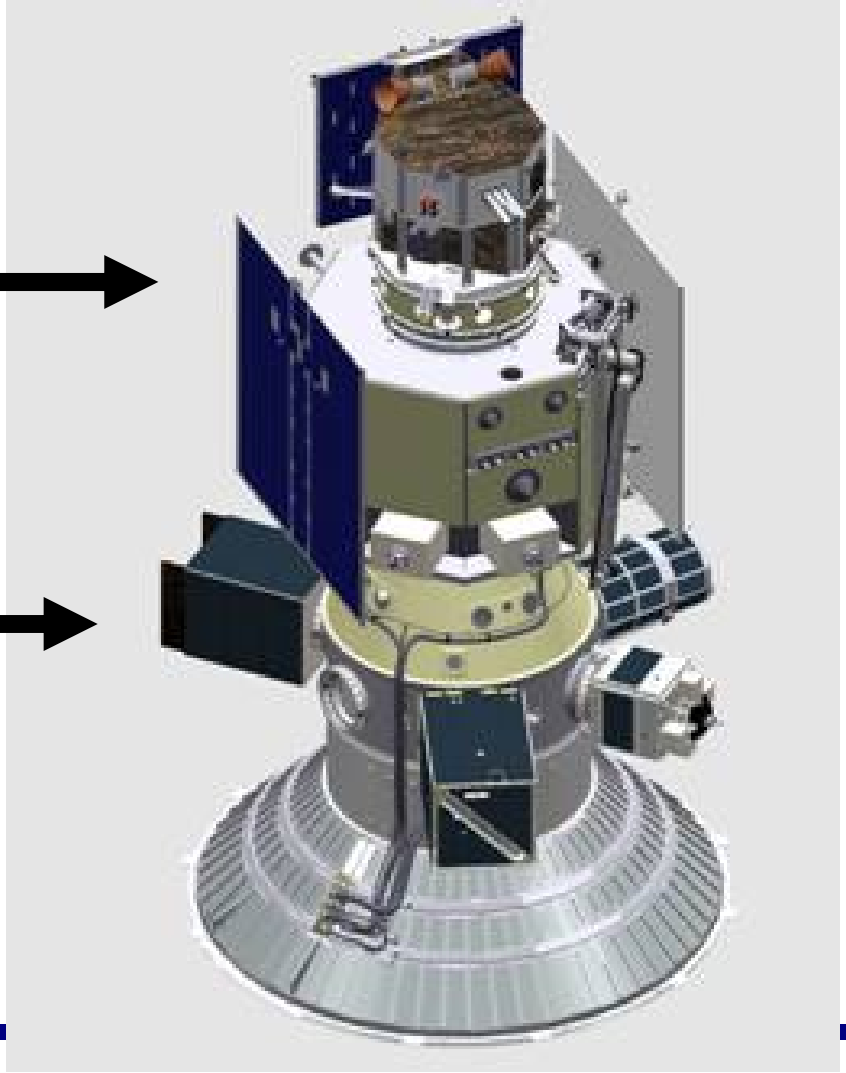
The “airliners” of the US unmanned space program.

What is “coach class” on a rocket?

Seating Arrangement

First Class →

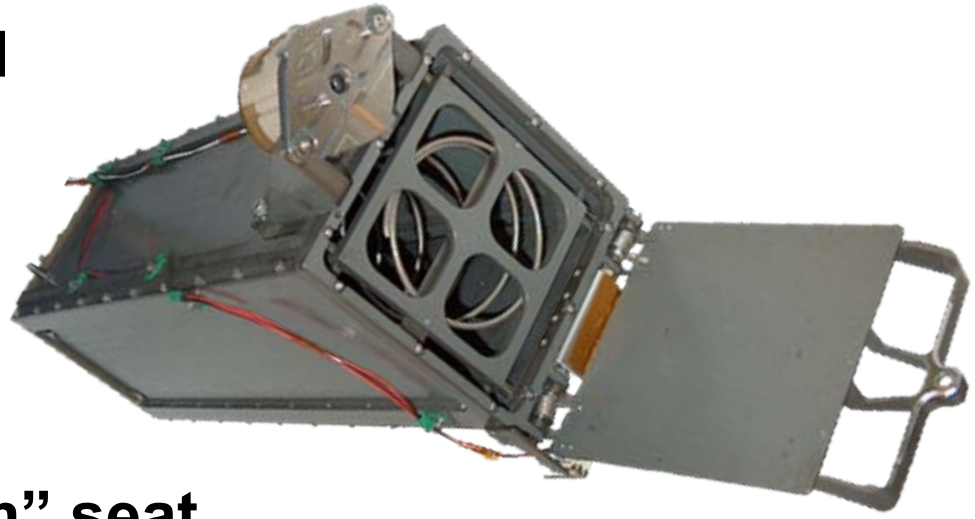
Business Class →



What is “coach class” on a rocket?

The under-served customer

And



The “limited leg-room” seat

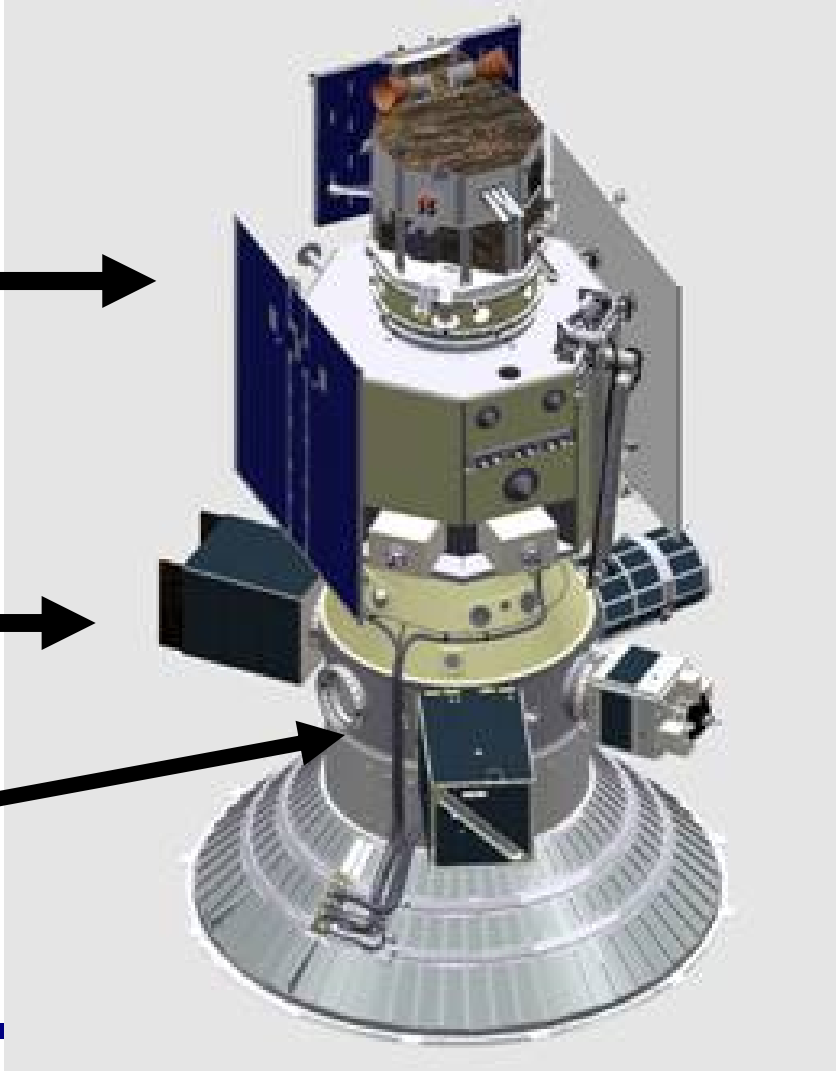
What is “coach class” on a rocket?

Seating Arrangement

First Class

Business Class

Coach Class?



This is the Coach Class Section!

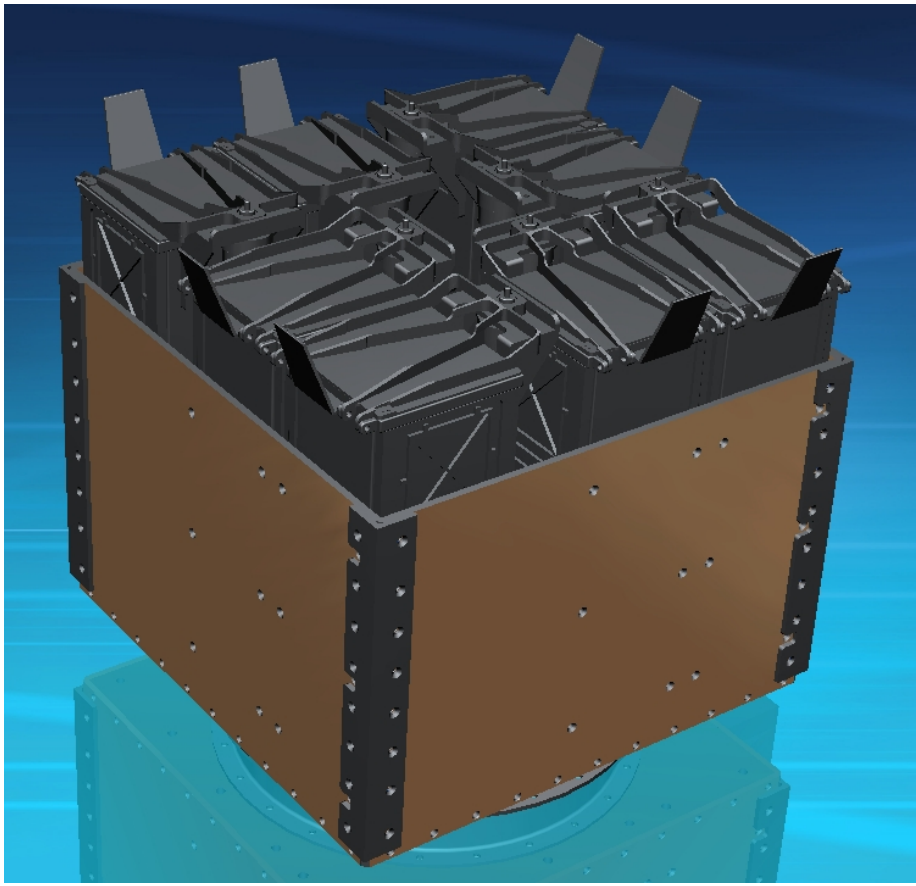
P-PODs packaged as a secondary payload.

-high capacity (24U-50U)

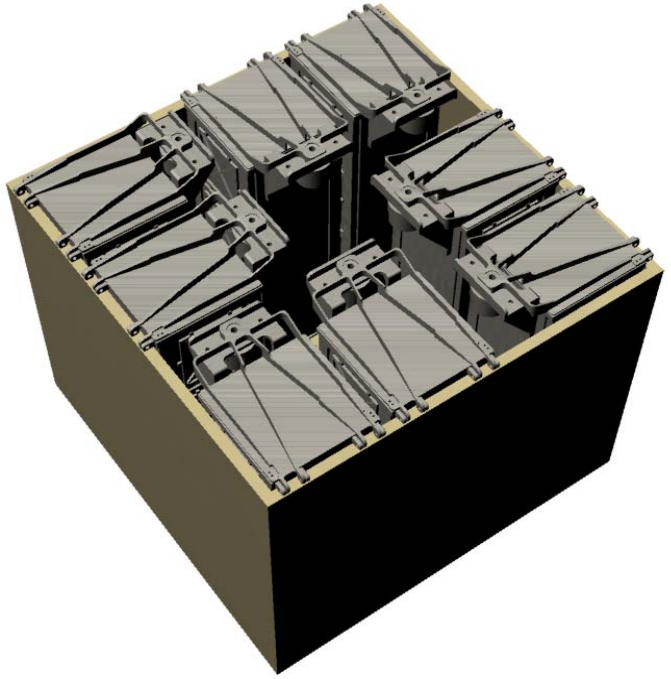
-leverages mature technology

-multi-LV compatible

-low risk to primary payload or other secondary payloads



NPSCuL Design



NPSCuL (10 5U P-PODS)

(ESPA-Compatible)

NPSCuL-Lite (8 3U P-PODS)

(Compatible with ESPA and other, smaller Secondary Payload Adapters)

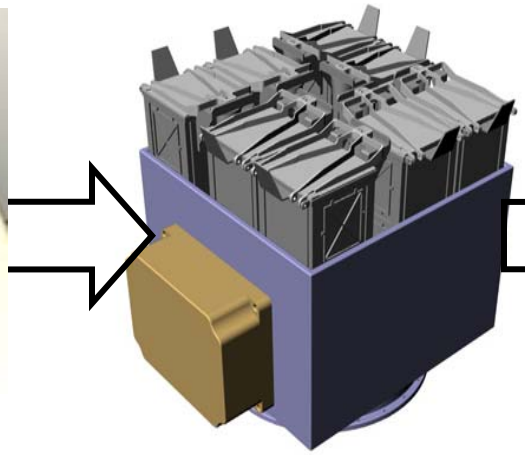
Integration Process

DoD / Government/ University CubeSat Experiments

CubeSats integrated into P-PODS

Finished P-PODs delivered to NPSCuL Integration Site

Integrated P-PODs



P-PODS integrated into NPSCuL structure

Finished NPSCuL delivered to Space Vehicle Integration Site

Space Test Program

(or other launch provider)

Space Vehicle Integration and flight preparation

Launch!

NPSCuL-LITE Test Program

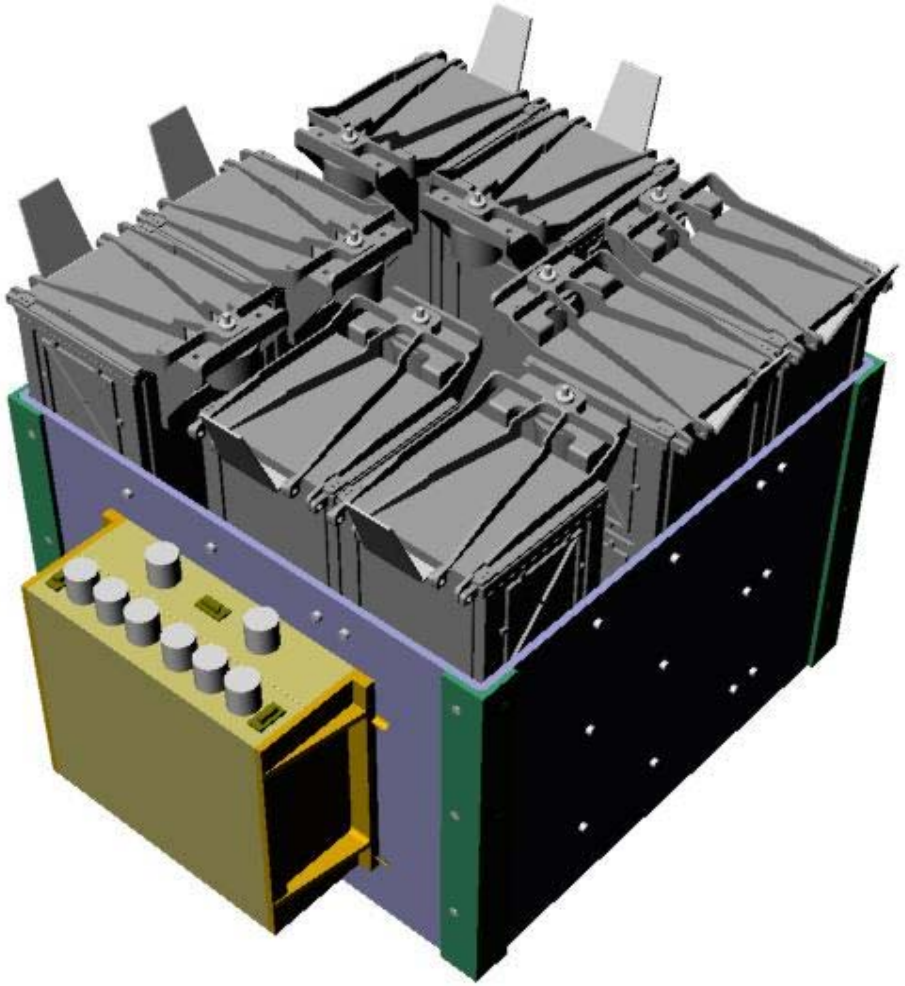
Structure Qualification

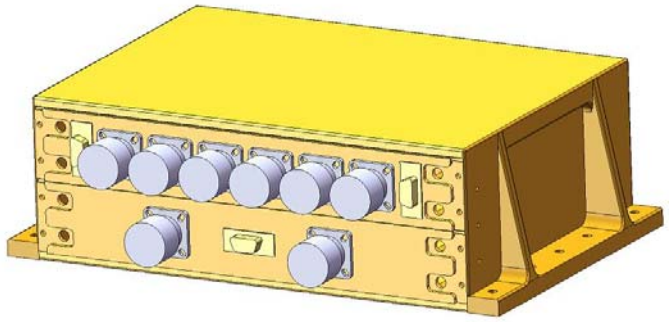
- Launch environments +6dB using Mass Models to simulate loaded P-PODs
- Must accommodate minimum expected CubeSat mass (1 kg/U)
- NPS will perform all structural tests

Functional Developmental Testing

- On-board electronics fire the deployment systems in sequence
- Currently in development by a launch provider
- NPS to develop mission specific electrical harnesses

Sequencer Design





Requirements:

- **28V power from LV**
- **RS-422 programming interface**
- **8-channel redundant output**

Program Progress To Date

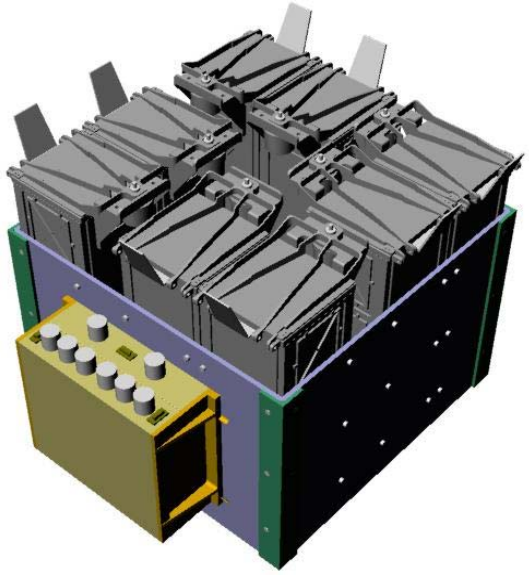
NPSCuL-Lite

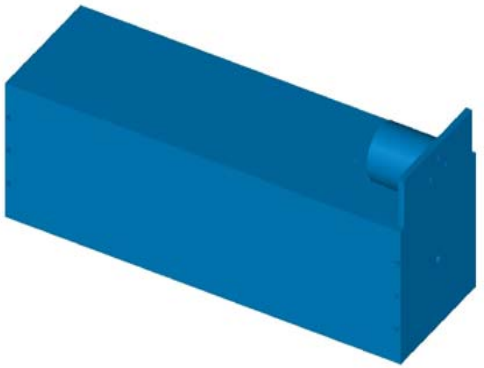
- Qualification Test structure produced and assembled.
- Mass model of sequencer unit has been integrated
- Structural and TVAC testing to begin shortly.

P-POD Mass Models

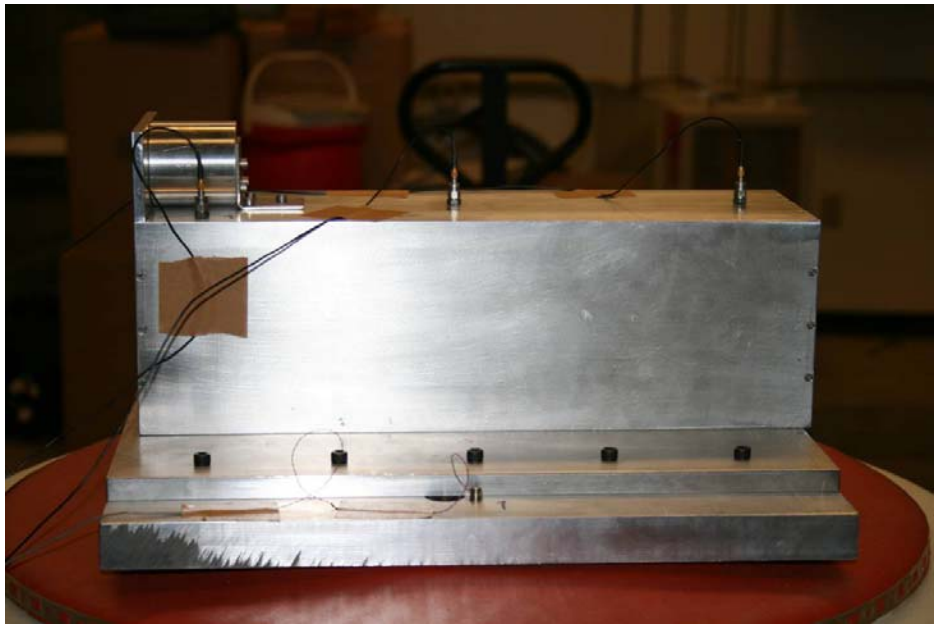
- 9 units produced
- design went through a thorough qualification test battery

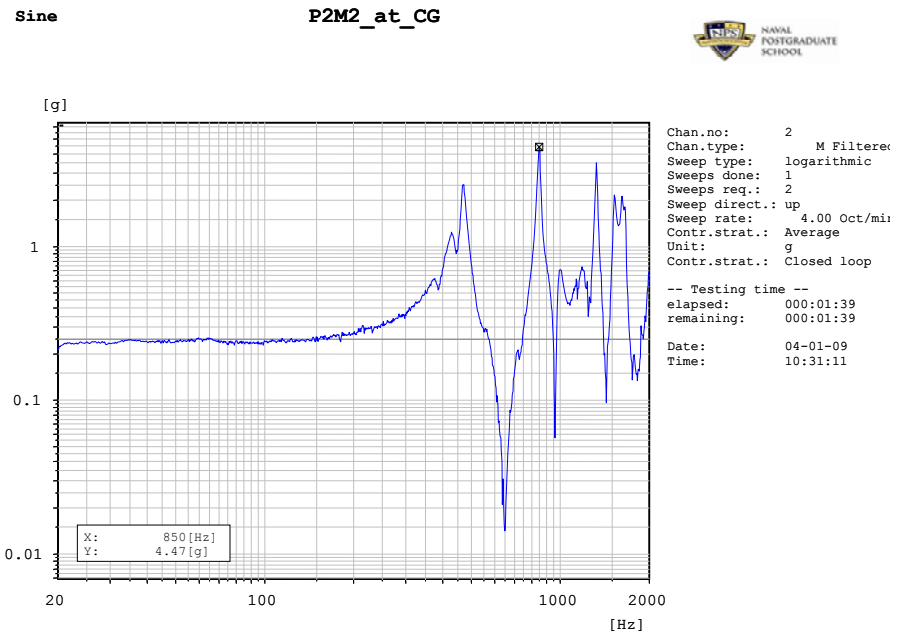
Sequencer – development by industry is underway.





Program Progress To Date





P-POD Mass Model Structural Test at NPS Vibration Test Facility, Monterey, CA

Future of NPSCuL/NPSCuL-Lite

Potential flight opportunity exists in 2010. To support this opportunity:

- Flight Article Build – through DEC 2009
- Harness Design and Build – through JAN 2010
- Acceptance Test– no later than March 2010
  - Requires sequencer and 8 integrated, flight-ready P-PODs
- Launch Vehicle Integration – April 2010
- 1st Launch – August 2010

2nd Flight Opportunity

- Possible slot on an ESPA ring expected in 2012
- NPS will seek to fill any unfilled slots with payloads from University developers

Questions?

NPSCuL Contacts

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